Pre-AP Biology

2018-2019

OSBOURN PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Instructor: Olivia Jensen

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Class Website: jensebio.weebly.com

Welcome to an exciting year of biology, the study of life! Biology is a recommended course in which students will explore and investigate biological functions and systems at the molecular, cellular, and environmental levels. Please read through the following syllabus, academic requirements, and classroom expectations. Knowing and understanding these procedures will help ensure your success in biology class.

Course Sequence

This course will be broken down into the following units of study:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Unit 1***: Introduction to Biology | ***Unit 6:*** Nucleic Acids and Protein Synthesis |
| ***Unit 2***: Biochemistry | ***Unit 7:*** Genetics |
| ***Unit 3***: Cell Structure and Transport | ***Unit 8:*** Evolution and Classification |
| ***Unit 4:*** Cell Energy (Photosynthesis/Respiration) | ***Unit 9:*** Ecology |
| ***Unit 5***: Cell Division | ***Unit 10:*** Biodiversity |

Course Textbook

Miller, Kenneth R. and Joseph S. Levine. Biology. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson, Prentice Hall, 2004.

Materials

The following materials are required so that you can stay organized in this course:

* 3-ring binder, at least 1.5” that is ONLY FOR BIOLOGY
* Writing utensils (pens/pencils)
* Loose-leaf paper (in the binder)
* Colored pencils and calculators will also be used on occasion

Classroom Rules and Expectations

As this is an advanced course, you are expected to behave in a way that shows you are capable of this higher workload.

* You are expected to follow the PWCS Code of Behavior and OPHS school rules, including lab safety.
* You are to display respect to the teacher and also fellow classmates.
* NO cheating. I do not give second chances. This is your warning.
* Use of electronic devices is prohibited unless you are given explicit permission.

Grading Scale and Weighted Categories

**GRADING SCALE:** **CATERGORIES:**

**Tests:** 60%

**Labs/Projects:** 20%

**Quizzes**: 10%

**Class Work:** 10%

A 90.00%-100.00%

B+ 87.00%-89.99%

B 80.00%-86.99%

C+ 77.00%-79.99%

C 70.00%-76.99%

D+ 67.00%-69.99%

D 60.00%-66.99%

F 0.00%-59.99%

Academic Requirements

***1) Tests:*** There will be a test for each unit, broken down by learning target. You will be informed of the dates for unit tests at the beginning of each unit. Retakes are available by learning target, so you may retake only the portion(s) of the test you performed poorly on. Retakes, however, will be offered to those who completed and turned in the review packet before they tested for the ***first*** time, as well as completed a remediation assignment to help reteach the content. Test retake scores will replace the original test score.

***2) Labs:*** Throughout the year, we will be participating in a variety of laboratory experiences designed to make biology coursework authentic and relevant. During laboratory activities, the most important consideration is always safety. In class, we will carefully review a list of lab safety rules and procedures. Both students and parents/guardians will be required to sign a lab safety contract before students will be permitted to participate in lab activities. ***Labs will be collected and feedback will be provided, but the grade will be derived from a post-lab assessment.***

***3) Quizzes:*** Students will be assessed using a variety of assessment methods frequently. These methods include, but are not limited to, exit tickets, entrance slips, vocabulary quizzes, and learning target quizzes. Students can expect one of these forms of a quiz daily.

***4) Class Work:*** You will receive a variety of reading and writing assignments to be completed in class to become more literate in the study of science. Assignments to improve effective scientific communication could include case studies, data analysis, and short writing assignments. You must complete these assignments to the best of your ability as these are assigned to help you master the content and monitor your level of understanding.

***5) SOL Test****:* The Virginia Standards of Learning test for biology will be given towards the end of the school year (mid to late May). We will be preparing throughout the year for this exam.

Electronic Devices in Class

Occasionally, we may use smart phones/tablets etc. in class for assignments. **Unless explicitly given permission, you may NOT use your electronic devices in class!!** Generally, if I see it, I will take it for the rest of class. If this behavior becomes a pattern, then administration and parents will be notified.

Class Website & Contact Information

I will do my best to keep the websites updated with assignments and information. Please check regularly. ***When absent, please first rely on the website before asking me about assignments you missed.***All resources including notes, worksheets, powerpoints, and absent versions of labs for Pre-AP Biology can be found on there. The link can also be found through School Messenger on the OPHS website.

The best way to contact me is by email. I try to respond to all emails within one school day of receiving them. I am also available for students for 1 hour after school Tuesday through Thursday and for parents by appointment. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns using the information at the top of the syllabus.

Please complete this page & return by: Wednesday Sept. 5th

**Contact Information:**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent communication information:**

Please provide the following information so that I can contact you if necessary. Thank you!

Parent/Guardian Name: (first and last) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: Home \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please **circle** preferred contact method: home phone work phone cell phone email

**Syllabus Contract:**

**I have read this syllabus and I have reviewed it with a parent or guardian. I understand what is expected in class, and I support the policies outlined. I will contact my teacher with any questions or concerns.**

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_